

Connecticut Council of Car Clubs
Dave Bajumpaa
17 Mullen Road
East Windsor Connecticut
March 9, 2012

Planning and Development Committee
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 5405, "An Act Establishing a State-Wide Mill Rate for Motor Vehicles and Amending the Definition of Antique, Rare or Special Interest Motor Vehicles."

Dear State Senator/Representative:

The Connecticut Council of Car Clubs (4C's) is an association of approximately 35 Connecticut Car Clubs that monitors legislation in the state. We represent on the order of 2000 antique automotive hobbyists in the state. The 4C's Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer automotive hobbyists.

The 4C's is opposed to the portion of House Bill 5405 that raises the maximum assessed value of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from \$500 to \$2500. We believe the proposed change is not warranted considering that antique automotive hobbyists already pay their fair share of property taxes on the other motor vehicles we use as primary transportation. Also, the proposed change is not warranted considering the significant benefits the hobby provides to the community.

Antique automotive hobbyists in this state have other motor vehicles that are used as primary transportation. We refer to them as "daily drivers." These vehicles are subject to the same property taxes that everyone else in the state pays. Because of this, antique automotive hobbyists are already paying their fair share of property taxes on motor vehicles. Unlike many other hobbies, our hobby requires us to register our antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles. Since they are registered, these hobby vehicles are easier to identify for the purpose of accessing property tax than other hobbies. Hobbyists, such as those that collect artwork, furniture, stamps, coins, or rare books, cannot be easily identified for the purposes of assessing property tax, and are not taxed. Increasing the maximum property tax assessment of antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles would unfairly put the antique automotive hobbyists in a situation where the tax burden associated with their hobby would be excessive, as compared to other hobbies.

In addition, the antique automotive hobbyist provides benefits to the community that many other hobbies don't provide. There are several car shows each weekend in the state throughout the late spring, summer, and early fall. These car shows benefit many Connecticut charities and organizations, resulting in significant revenues to these charities and organizations. In addition, on any given weekday night, there are several cruise nights in

H.B. 5405

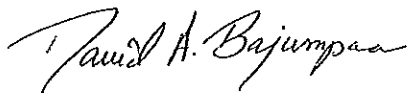
Connecticut where automotive hobbyists gather. These car shows and cruise nights result in increased spending at restaurants and local business throughout the state, helping improve the state economy. Also, the use of antique, rare or special interest vehicles in local parades and other city and town functions throughout the state provide a significant positive benefit to the community. The availability of antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles is also a benefit to the developing film business in Connecticut. Increasing the assessed value of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle would have an adverse impact on the antique automotive hobby that provides these significant benefits to the state.

Based on the above, the Connecticut Council of Car Clubs is strongly opposed to the provision of House Bill 5405 that proposes to increase the maximum assessed value of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from \$500 to \$2500.

House Bill 5405 also proposes to increase the minimum age of an antique, rare or special interest vehicle from 20 to 30 years. The Connecticut Council of Car Clubs would prefer that the minimum age of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle not be changed. It is not clear that any benefit associated with increasing the minimum age from 20 to 30 years outweighs the potential burden hobbyists that currently own vehicles between 20 and 30 years old may encounter having to reregister their motor vehicles. Currently, the state statutes allow the DMV to issue special number plates (or antique plates) to antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles greater than 20 years old. If the minimum age is changes to 30 years, it is not clear whether those motor vehicles with special number plates would be "grandfathered" or they need to turn those plates in and reregister their motor vehicles with a different plate. The hobby would be more receptive to this proposed change if current vehicles with special number plates are not required to reregister their motor vehicles.

The 4C's respectfully requests that the Planning and Development Committee delete the portion of House Bill 5405 that increases the assessed value for an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from \$500 to \$2500. Additionally, if the Committee feels it necessary to raise the age of an antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle from 20 to 30 years, then we request that consideration be given to allowing 20 to 30 year old antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles that currently have special number plates to continue to utilize them.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave A. Bajumpaa".

Dave Bajumpaa
Connecticut Council of Car Clubs